



HIKING

FOREST SERVICE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan
RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine

Date: February 2003



MOLAS TRAIL #665

Length: 4.0 mi (6.4 km.)

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: More difficult

USGS Map (s) Snowdon Peak

Starting Elevation: 10,000'

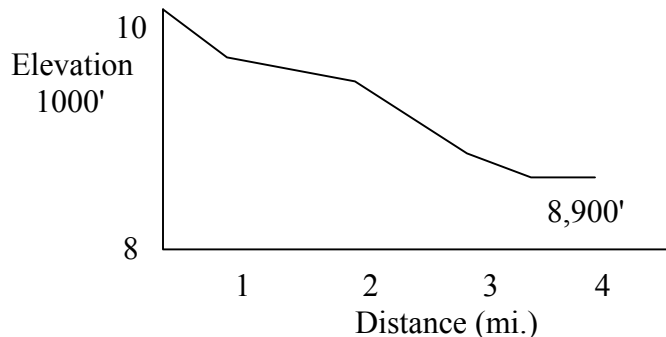
Trailhead off U.S. 550

Ending Elevation: 8,900'

Animas River/Elk Creek junction

Recommended Season: Summer/Fall

Recommended Season
Spring Summer Fall Winter



Access # 1 : 46 miles north of Durango on U.S. 550 and about 1 mile north of Molas Pass, turn east into the Molas Lake access road. Plenty of parking is available at the trailhead.

Access # 2: Access to this trail is also available from the Elk Creek Trail. Please see its trail description for a complete listing of access points.

Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map

Forest Service maps and other publications available at the Public Lands Center in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of Durango off Highway 160, or by calling 970-247-4874.
www.sjma.org

Attractions & Considerations : This trail is pleasant to walk down, but walking up is work. Fortunately, there are other options, such as the Elk Creek Trail and the D.

& S.N.G. train. The first part of the trail gently descends through some pretty meadows next to the creek. This section of the trail offers excellent views of the Grenadiers and Needles. The trail then begins to drop sharply down the 1,500-ft. descent to the Animas River. All water should be purified, due to problems with Giardia.

Fishing Considerations : Rated good for rainbow and brook trout.



Weminuche Wilderness Regulations: Group size is limited to 15 people. A combination of people and livestock must not exceed 25. All livestock feed must be certified weed free. Camping is not allowed within 100 feet of any water source unless the campsite is designated or posted. Do not

leave campfires unattended. Outfitter-guides who receive any form of compensation must obtain a special-use permit to operate on public land. Dogs must be leashed or under voice control at all times and must not disturb people or wildlife. Shortcutting switchbacks on trails is prohibited. Disposal of human waste and gray water within 100 feet of any water source is prohibited. Trash must be packed out and properly disposed of. Cutting or damaging live trees is prohibited. **Please check trailhead signs or Forest Service offices for site-specific camping, campfire, and livestock regulations**